

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 209713

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /007 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:JSROY:CED  
APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:HETTHAYER  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
EA ONLY

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R 240141Z AUG 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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STADIS/////////  
LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH US

SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT  
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### 3. THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THOUGH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THUS FAR HAVE NOT PROVIDED EVIDENCE THAT THE CHINESE POPULACE INTERPRETS THE RECENT EARTHQUAKES AS INDICATING THAT THE "MANDATE OF HEAVEN" HAS PASSED FROM THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP, MEDIA EFFORTS TO SQUELCH SUCH SPECULATION SUGGEST THAT PEKING IS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY.

THE PRESS AND RADIO HAVE BEEN URGING THE POPULACE TO MEET THE "CHALLENGE OF NATURAL DISASTERS" AND HAVE REFUTED THE "CONFUCIAN NOTION" OF "BEING IN AWE OF THE ORDINANCES OF HEAVEN." THAT "FAITHFUL DISCIPLE OF CONFUCIUS," TENG  
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PAGE 02 STATE 209713

HSIAO-PING, HAS BEEN LAMBASTED FOR BEING "AN OUT-AND-OUT

ADVOCATE OF 'ORDINANCES OF HEAVEN.'"

THE CONGEN FEELS THAT THE COMBINATION OF MAO'S APPROACHING DEATH, THE UNCERTAIN LEADERSHIP SITUATION, INCREASED PROVINCIAL FACTIONALISM AND SERIOUS NATURAL DISASTERS HAVE

FOSTERED A RIPE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE GENERATION OF SUCH RUMORS, BUT BELIEVES THE COMPETENT HANDLING OF QUAKE RELIEF WILL PROBABLY HELP TO OFFSET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS FAILING TO MEET ITS INCREASING CHALLENGES.

6. NO CHU TE REPLACEMENT AS YET (UNCLASSIFIED)

EARLIER SPECULATION THAT PEKING MAYOR WU TE HAD ASSUMED CHU TE'S ACTIVITIES AS CEREMONIAL HEAD OF STATE HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. ALTHOUGH WU ACCEPTED THE CREDENTIALS OF THE NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR, CAMBODIA'S NEW ENVOY PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO HSU SHIANG-CH'EN, A LESSER RANKING NPC VICE CHAIRMAN.

8. FORMER SECDEF SCHLESINGER'S TRIP TO THE PRC (UNCLASSIFIED)

ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST INFORMATION, IN ADDITION TO BILL WHITSON, ED LITVAK OF SAIS, AND JERRY SCHECTER OF "TIME," THE SCHLESINGER GROUP WILL ALSO INCLUDE JOE KRAFT, ROBERT BARTLEY (EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR OF THE "WALL STREET JOURNAL"), DICK PERLE (A STAFFER OF THE SENATE INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE WITH CLOSE TIES TO SENATOR JACKSON), CHUCK BENOIT (WHO ACCORDING TO BILL WHITSON HAS SOME CHINA BACKGROUND), AND SOMEBODY NAMED WARTENBERG. THE GROUP IS STILL APPARENTLY SCHEDULED TO ENTER THE PRC AS PLANNED ON SEPTEMBER 7.

10. PRCLO REGRETS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRCLO FIRST SECRETARY HSU HSIN-HSI TELEPHONED BOB MCMAHAN AUGUST 17 TO EXPRESS "REGRET" THAT A COPY OF THE ROC BACKGROUND NOTES HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO PRCLO. THE SLIP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 209713

UP OCCURRED BECAUSE PRCLO SUBSCRIBES TO THE BACKGROUND NOTES SERIES AND THE AUTOMATED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SENDS EVERY SUBSCRIBER EACH NEW PUBLICATION AS ISSUED. WE ARE AGAIN TAKING A LOOK AT HOW TO ESTABLISH POLICY CONTROL OVER AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING.

11. THANKS FOR US CONDOLENCE MESSAGES (UNCLASSIFIED)

A PRCLO REPRESENTATIVE DELIVERED UNSIGNED LETTERS OF THANKS FROM THE CHU TEH FUNERAL COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY FOR THEIR CONDOLENCE MESSAGES ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE NPC CHAIRMAN.

OTHER ITEMS COVERED:

1. EARTHQUAKE UPDATE (UNCLASSIFIED)
2. WHERE ARE THE RED GUARDS OF YESTERYEAR? (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
4. PRC SUPPORTS NORTH KOREAN POSITION ON KOREA (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
5. PEKING'S REACTION TO SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TRIP (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
7. CONSULTATION FOR AMBASSADOR GATES (UNCLASSIFIED)
9. FACILITATED EXCHANGES (UNCLASSIFIED)  
KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, EARTHQUAKES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXCERPTS FROM EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CH, US  
**To:** PEKING HONG KONG  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006